

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-25 and insert therefore the following new claims:

26. (New) A purified peptide having SEQ ID NO: 2 or a derivative thereof, wherein said derivative is capable of binding to the IL-2 $\beta$  chain or the monoclonal antibodies produced by H2-8 hybridoma.

27. (New) The peptide of Claim 26, having SEQ ID NO.: 2.

28. (New) The peptide of Claim 26, wherein said homologous peptide contains one or more conservative mutation.

29. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more non-polar R-groups by other non-polar R groups.

30. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more uncharged polar R groups by other uncharged polar R groups.

31. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more charged polar R groups by other charged polar R groups .

32. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein Lys is substituted for Arg, or vice versa so that a positive charge is maintained.

33. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein Glu is substituted for Asp, or vice versa so that a negative charge is maintained.

34. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein Asp is substituted for Glu.

35. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein one or more Ser is substituted for Thr.

36. (New) The peptide of Claim 28, wherein one or more Gln is substituted for Asn.

37. (New) The peptide of Claim 26, wherein said peptide has a sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 4 or a derivative thereof.

38. (New) The peptide of Claim 37, having SEQ ID NO.: 4.

39. (New) The peptide of Claim 37, wherein said homologous peptide contains one or more conservative mutation.

40. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more non-polar R-groups by other non-polar R groups.

41. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more uncharged polar R groups by other uncharged polar R groups.

42. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein said conservative mutation is a replacement of one or more charged polar R groups by other charged polar R groups .

43. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein Lys is substituted for Arg, or vice versa so that a positive charge is maintained.

44. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein Glu is substituted for Asp, or vice versa so that a negative charge is maintained.

45. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein Asp is substituted for Glu.

46. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein one or more Ser is substituted for Thr.

47. (New) The peptide of Claim 39, wherein one or more Gln is substituted for Asn.

48. (New) The peptide of Claim 37, wherein said derivative is a homologous peptide that induces SHC phosphorylation or induces the SHC/MAPK pathway.

49. (New) The peptide of Claim 26, wherein said derivative is a homologous peptide that induces SHC phosphorylation or induces the SHC/MAPK pathway.